



County Treasurers' Association

New Legislation

Timothy J. Rushenberg

Commissioner

August 6, 2009



Outline

- Reassessment Delay to July 1, 2010
- Mobile Home: Waiver of Property Taxes and Penalties
- Permanently Flooded Real Property (Form 137PF)
- Timely Certified Distributions to Units
- Electronic Tax Bills
- Installment Payments



General Reassessment Delay

- Delay start of general reassessment to July 1, 2010
 - March 1, 2012 assessment date (and valuation date)
 - Property taxes first due and payable in 2013
- May start reassessment activities now
 - Make sure property data is verified and confirmed during general reassessment period
 - Property visit;
 - Review of building permits; or
 - Pictometry



Mobile Home: Waiver of Taxes

- Waiver of property taxes for owners of abandoned mobile homes with assessed value less than taxes owed
- Mobile home owner may submit a written request to County Assessor requesting the personal property tax liability be waived, if the mobile home:
 - has deteriorated to a degree that it can no longer provide suitable protection;
 - has little or no value as a structure;
 - personal property tax liability exceeds the estimated resale value; and
 - has been abandoned in a licensed mobile home community.



Permanently Flooded Real Property

- Owner of parcel may petition County Assessor for reassessment of parcel if:
 - Permanently flooded (or access over land is permanently prevented by flooding); and
 - Not used for agricultural purposes
- Form 137PF, Petition for Survey and Reassessment Real Property that is Permanently Flooded or Access is Permanently Prevented by Flooding



Permanently Flooded Real Property

- Flooding occurs before May 11 and after preceding November 10 (between Nov 11, 2008 and May 10, 2009)
 - Form 137PF must be filed by December 31, 2009
 - Reassessment order affects 2009 and 2010 tax bills
- Flooding occurs after May 10 and before following November 11 (between May 11, 2009 and Nov 10, 2009)
 - Form 137PF must be filed by December 31, 2009
 - Reassessment order affects 2009 (Fall installment) and 2010 bills



Timely Certified Distributions

- County Auditor to timely distribute certified CAGIT, COIT, and CEDIT distributions to each civil taxing unit, school corporation and city/town.
- A distribution is timely if it is made no later than 10 working days after the date the County Treasurer receives the county's certified distribution.



Electronic Property Tax Bills

- Beginning in pay-2009, county legislative body (county commissioners) may adopt ordinance authorizing tax bills to be sent via e-mail to taxpayers who have applied.
- If ordinance adopted, County Treasurer and County Auditor shall publicize, through appropriate media, the availability of the option and the applicable steps and deadlines involved to begin receiving electronic tax bills.



Electronic Property Tax Bills

- Format of the e-bill (TS-1-E) is just like the regular tax bill and comparison statement.
- Taxpayers can apply to receive e-bills in two ways:
 - State Form 53954, *Authorization for Receipt of Electronic Property Tax Statements*.
 - State Form 46021, *Sales Disclosure Form*
- Taxpayer must apply at least 30 days before the anticipated mailing date of tax bills in the county.



Electronic Property Tax Bills

- E-bills must be sent to the taxpayer at least 15 days prior to the first installment due date
 - This is the same amount of minimum notice required for regular, hard copy tax bills.
 - Example: May 10, 2010 Spring tax bill due date means e-bills must be sent on or before Friday, April 23, 2010



Electronic Property Tax Bills

- In a county that elects to e-mail tax bills, County Treasurer is required to maintain a record documenting the following:
 - Name of the person to whom a tax bill is sent by email;
 - The information included in the bill; and
 - Whether the tax bill was received



Electronic Property Tax Bills

- If County Treasurer receives response to e-mail that e-bill was not received by taxpayer, Treasurer must send a hard copy tax bill via U.S. mail.
- Due date for the tax bill, however, remains same.



Electronic Property Tax Bills

- At least 30 days prior to anticipated mailing date of tax bills in county, taxpayer may choose to either change the designated e-mail address where bills are sent, or opt out of receiving e-bills altogether.



Installment Payments

- A single tax bill due date will be allowed if requested by the county in 2010.
- Installment plans are encouraged but not required.
 - Installment plan for homestead taxpayers under IC 6-1.1-22-9.5
 - Ordinance adopted by county council allowing all taxpayers to pay one or more installments of property taxes by any combination of the following:
 1. Automatically monthly deductions from a financial account
 2. Payments under a monthly installment plan adopted in accordance with IC 6-1.1-22-9.7



Installment Payments

- Statutorily required due dates are May 10 and Nov. 10
- A single tax bill due date will be allowed if requested by the county.
- Installment plans are encouraged but not required.
 - Installment plan for homestead taxpayers under IC 6-1.1-22-9.5
 - Ordinance adopted by county council allowing all taxpayers to pay one or more installments of property taxes by any combination of the following:
 1. Automatically monthly deductions from a financial account
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Conclusion

- General Reassessment Delayed to July 1, 2010
- Mobile Home: Waiver of Property Taxes and Penalties
- Permanently Flooded Real Property (137PF)
- Timely Certified Distributions within 10 working days
- Electronic Tax Bills
- Installment Payments



Contact The Department

- Tim Rushenberg
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- Web site: www.in.gov/dlgf
 - “Contact Us”: www.in.gov/dlgf/2338.htm



County Treasurers' Association

Developments at the
Department of Local Government Finance

Timothy J. Rushenberg
Commissioner

August 6, 2009



Outline

- DLGF Overview
- Establishing New Standards
- Agency Goals
- Update on Assessments, Budgets, Etc.
- Comparing Property Tax Bills
- 2010 Census



DLGF Overview

■ Duties:

- Ensure property tax assessment and local government budgeting follow Indiana law
- Publish property tax assessment rules
- Annually review and approve tax rates and levies of every political subdivision including all counties, cities, towns, townships, school corporations, libraries and other entities with tax levy authority



DLGF Overview

- Structure:
 - Commissioner
 - Oversees the operations of the Department and serves as a member of the Distressed Unit Appeals Board
 - Assessment Division
 - Promotes consistent assessing procedures across the State by providing guidance and technical instruction and securing compliance with the law to ensure fair and equitable assessment of property for taxpayers
 - Budget Division
 - Works closely with local officials in preparing their annual budgets and provides recommendations to the Commissioner on matters related to budgets, rates, levies, exceptions to property tax controls and taxpayer exceptions to tax rate increases



DLGF Overview

- Structure
 - Communications Division
 - Supports communications and public relations activities that serve to promote understanding of property tax assessment and local government budgeting by local officials and taxpayers
 - Legal Division
 - Drafts and publishes property tax assessment rules and interprets statutory law to ensure property tax assessments and local government budgeting are carried out in accordance with Indiana law and DLGF rules and regulations
 - Operations Division
 - Researches and analyzes all areas of property taxation to ensure the fair and equitable distribution of the property tax burden



Establishing New Standards

■ Core Values

- Put taxpayers first.
- Respect local control.
- Excellence in all that we do.



Establishing New Standards

■ Core Competencies

1. Know Your Job
2. Work as a Team
3. Serve the Taxpayers
4. Enforce Assessment Standards
5. Make Sure Data Submission Deadlines are Met
6. Ensure Budget Processes are Followed and Levy and Rate Controls Enforced
7. Provide Guidance and Interpret Laws but Respect Local Control



Agency Goals

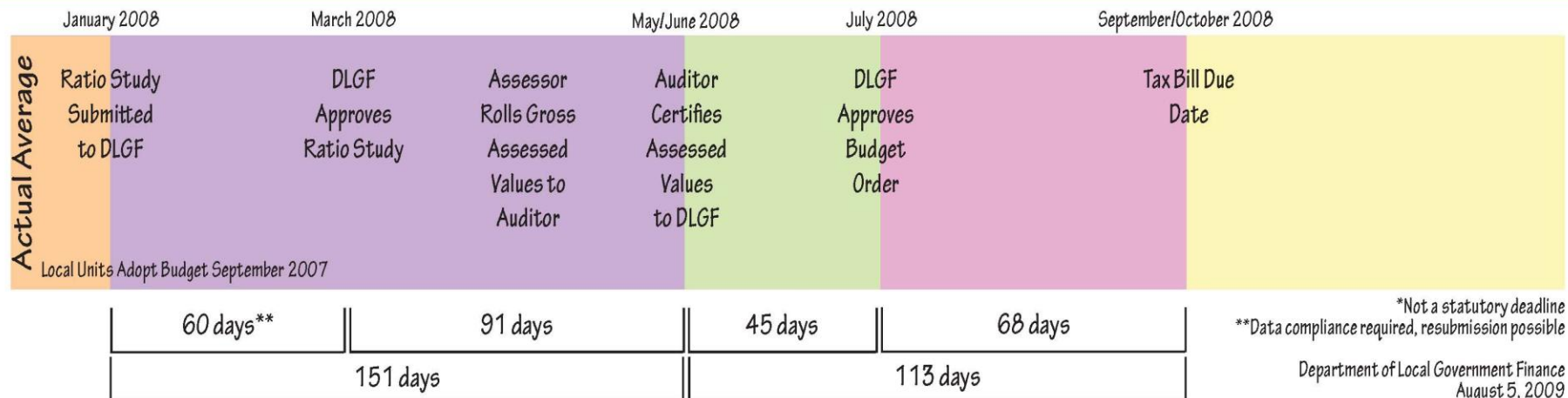
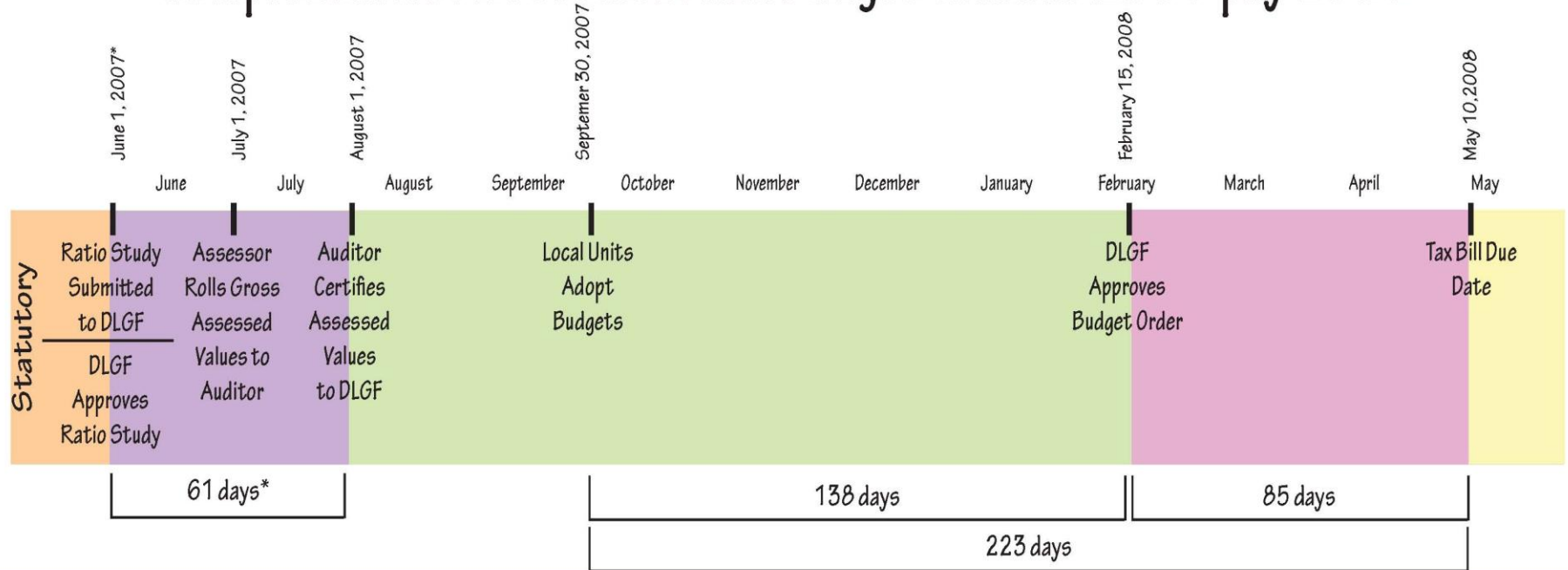
- Increase Professional Development of Staff
 - Require all staff to become Level I, Level II, and Level III certified
 - Cross-train field representatives with both budget and assessment knowledge
 - Increase amount and level of data analysis conducted by the Department



Agency Goals

- **Restore On-Time Property Tax Billing**
 - Proactively assist counties in achieving data compliance
 - Department Policy provides for a 2-3 day response and turnaround for Data compliant counties
 - Reduce turnaround time for review and approval of ratio studies (includes counties w/data compliance issues)
 - 2007 pay 2008 – 60 days
 - 2008 pay 2009 – 56 days
 - 2009 pay 2010 – 19 days
 - Reduce turnaround time for budget certification once certified assessed values are received
 - 2007 pay 2008 – 45 days
 - 2008 pay 2009 – 39 days

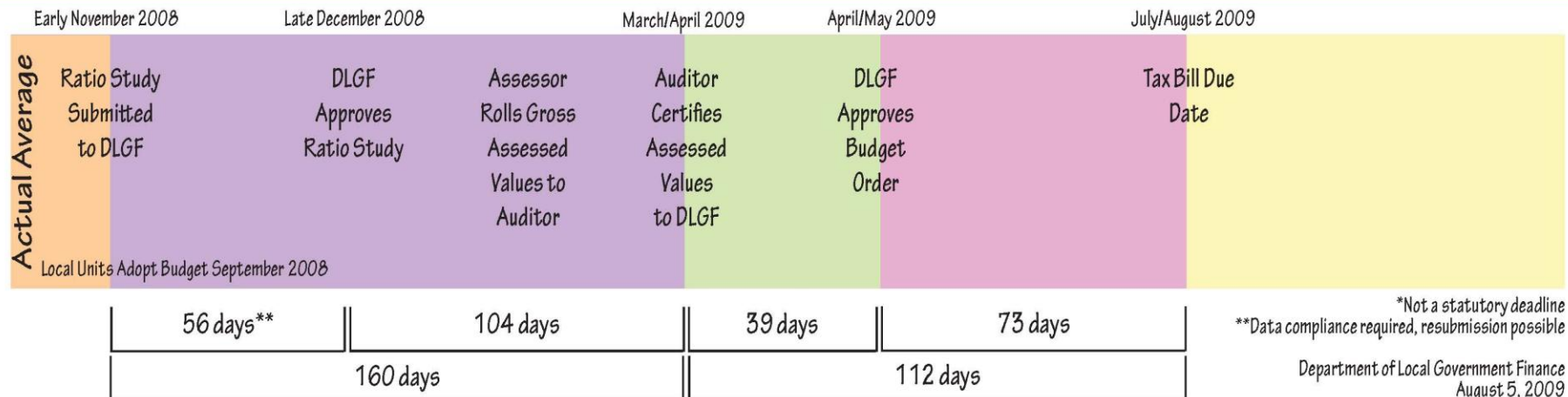
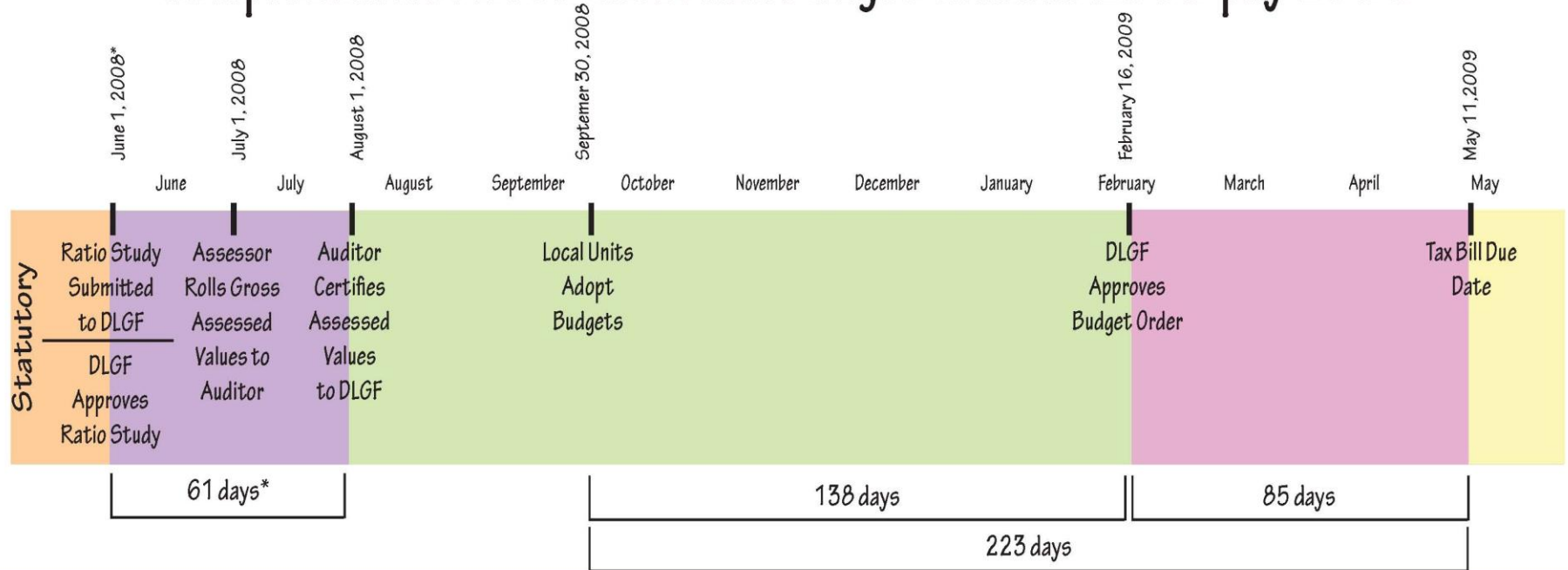
Comprehensive Assessment and Budget Timeline 2007 pay 2008



*Not a statutory deadline
 **Data compliance required, resubmission possible

Department of Local Government Finance
 August 5, 2009

Comprehensive Assessment and Budget Timeline 2008 pay 2009





<http://www.in.gov/dlgf/6827.htm>

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2008 pay 2009 Budget Certification Status Map

2009 Budget Certification status as of August 5, 2009

Status Maps:

<http://www.in.gov/dlgf/6827.htm>

Indiana Counties

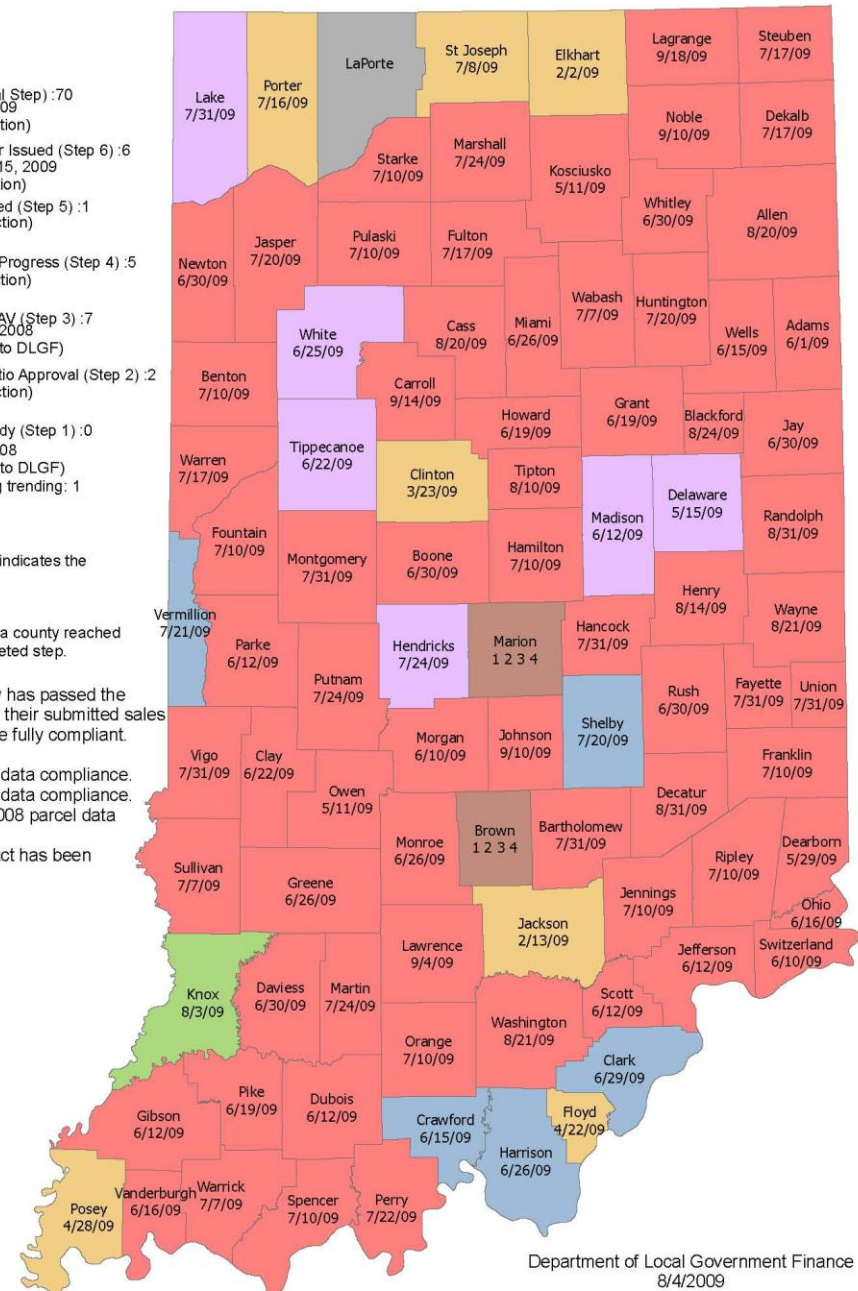
- Tax Bills Due (Final Step) :70
Due May 11, 2009
(Co. Treasurer Action)
- Final Budget Order Issued (Step 6) :6
Due February 15, 2009
(DLGF Action)
- 1782 Notices Issued (Step 5) :1
(DLGF Action)
- Budget Review in Progress (Step 4) :5
(DLGF Action)
- Awaiting Certified AV (Step 3) :7
Due August 1, 2008
(Co. Auditor sends to DLGF)
- Awaiting Sales Ratio Approval (Step 2) :2
(DLGF Action)
- Awaiting Ratio Study (Step 1) :0
Due Spring 2008
(Co. Assessor sends to DLGF)
- State is performing trending: 1

NOTE: The current color indicates the previous step has been completed or approved.

A date indicates the date a county reached their most recently completed step.

M-W indicates a county has passed the Mann-Whitney test and their submitted sales and parcel data sets are fully compliant.

- 1 indicates 2006 Sales data compliance.
- 2 indicates 2007 Sales data compliance.
- 3 indicates 2007 pay 2008 parcel data compliance.
- 4 indicates 2008 abstract has been completed.



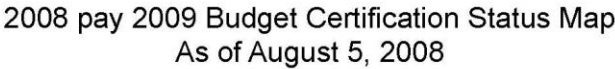
Department of Local Government Finance
8/4/2009



2010: “The Year of No Excuses”

In response to this challenge, the DLGF Team has accomplished the following:

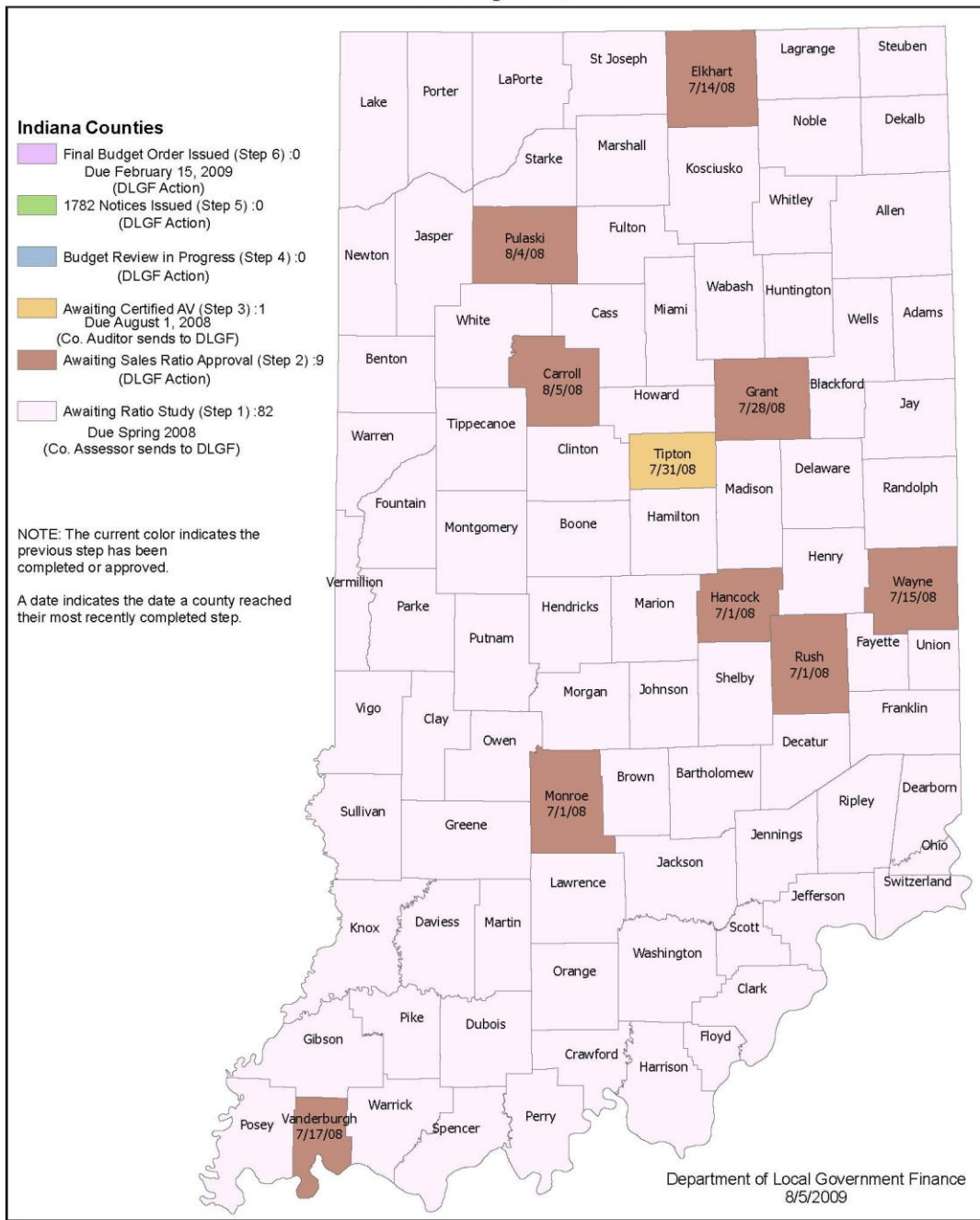
- Streamlined the data compliance process for assessment-sales ratio study approval purposes;
- Simplified the annual adjustment rule to allow for the use of only one year of sales and repealed the previous guidance that assessments be changed even if assessment level and uniformity statistical measures were within international standards; and
- Established a goal to issue 2010 budget orders within 60 days from receipt of certified net assessed values from the county auditor.



2009 Budget Certification status as of August 5, 2008

Status Maps:

<http://www.in.gov/dlgf/6827.htm>





2009 pay 2010 Budget Certification Status Map

2010 Budget Certification status as of August 5, 2009

Status Maps:

<http://www.in.gov/dlgf/6827.htm>

Indiana Counties

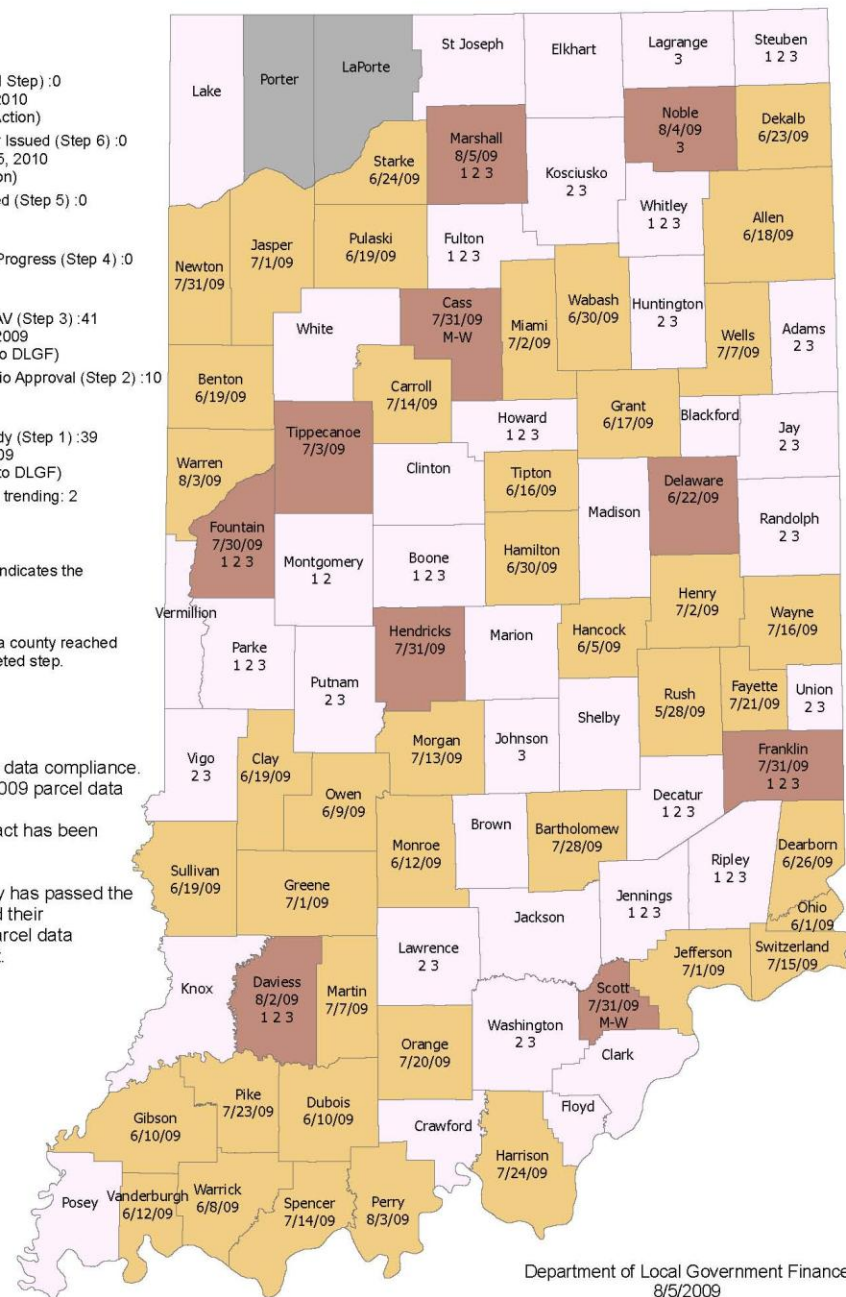
- Tax Bills Due (Final Step) :0
Due May 10, 2010
(Co. Treasurer Action)
- Final Budget Order Issued (Step 6) :0
Due February 15, 2010
(DLGF Action)
- 1782 Notices Issued (Step 5) :0
(DLGF Action)
- Budget Review in Progress (Step 4) :0
(DLGF Action)
- Awaiting Certified AV (Step 3) :41
Due August 3, 2009
(Co. Auditor sends to DLGF)
- Awaiting Sales Ratio Approval (Step 2) :10
(DLGF Action)
- Awaiting Ratio Study (Step 1) :39
Due Spring 2009
(Co. Assessor sends to DLGF)
- State is performing trending: 2

NOTE: The current color indicates the previous step has been completed or approved.

A date indicates the date a county reached their most recently completed step.

1 indicates 2008 Sales data compliance.
2 indicates 2008 pay 2009 parcel data compliance.
3 indicates 2009 abstract has been completed.

M-W indicates a county has passed the Mann-Whitney test and their submitted sales and parcel data sets are fully compliant.



Department of Local Government Finance
8/5/2009



Comparing Property Tax Bills

- Circuit Breaker Caps took effect at 1.5%, 2.5% and 3.5% of property's gross assessed value in 2009.
- Beginning in 2009, State assumed \$3 billion in local spending.
- Many property owners will see additional cuts next year as the caps drop to 1%, 2% and 3%.
- State-provided property tax relief has increased since 2007.



2010 Census

UNITED STATES CENSUS

2010 *Indiana*



For more information, visit the Indiana 2010 Census Web page: www.census.indiana.edu.



2010 Census

- The U.S. Constitution requires that a Census be conducted every 10 years to count each person living in the country.
 - The Census is used to apportion congressional seats.
 - Results inform policymakers who construct government programs.
 - Census numbers are the basis of funding for many federal programs, up to \$1,200 per person.
 - Medicaid, WIC food grants, social services
 - Title I educational grants
 - Transportation
 - State funds are often distributed using Census counts.
- Our objective is to ensure that every Hoosier is counted.



2010 Census

- Census Day is April 1, 2010
- Short “do” list to promote U.S. Census:
 - Alert your staff to upcoming Census
 - Post the Census message or link on your Web page
 - Mention it at appropriate meetings / presentations
- Census Message added to DLGF Form 11, TS-1, etc...



Conclusion

- Department's core values and competencies guide agency toward achieving on-time billing.
- Significant progress has been made for 2009 and we are off to a good start for 2010.
- 2010 Census: Be Counted



Contact The Department

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